following amendments and remarks. Please charge any fees that may be incurred to the deposit account 09-0456.

IN THE CLAIMS

1-4 (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A method of updating a design of a semiconductor chip at a hardware description language (HDL) level of ~~simulation~~ abstraction, to maximize an amount of logic that ~~can be~~ is set to a previous cycle state, the method comprising:

automatically reading and setting a state value of control signals on a per-cycle basis in a template and updating the ~~HDL~~ design in HDL with new data;

changing a first predetermined value of the template to be set ~~with~~ to the previous cycle state of the control signals; and

executing a test sweep to determine a "don't care" state of the control signals.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Original) the method according to claim 5, wherein said first predetermined value comprises a first non-zero value.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein said "don't care" state indicates a state at which a respective control signal of said control signals maintains a value from its previous cycle.

9-20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine readable instructions executed by an apparatus to perform a method of updating a design of a semiconductor chip at a hardware description language (HDL) level of ~~simulation~~ abstraction, to maximize an amount of logic that ~~can be~~ is set to a previous cycle state, said method comprising:

automatically reading and setting a value of control signals on a per-cycle basis in a template and updating the HDL design with new data;

changing a first predetermined value of the template to be set ~~with~~ to the previous cycle state of a control signal; and

executing a test sweep to determine a "don't care" state of the control signals.

22. (Canceled).

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification by substituting the following for the Title : "A METHOD OF UPDATING A SEMICONDUCTOR DESIGN" . No new matter is being added.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objected to claims 5, 7, 8, and 21 for various reasons. Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner. No new matter is being added.